

INTIMATIONS.

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(TWENTY-SIXTH ANNUAL ISSUE).
COMPLETE WITH APPENDIX, PLANS, &c., &c.
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THE HONGKONG DISPENSARY,
HONGKONG.

Hongkong, 27th November, 1888.

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Communications to Editors should be
addressed "The Editor," and those to Editors "The
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Correspondents are requested to forward their names
and address with communications addressed to the
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All letters for publication should be written on one
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be sent before 11 a.m. on the day of publication.
After that hour the supply is limited.

TELEPHONE No. 12.

The Daily Press.

HONGKONG, NOVEMBER 29TH, 1888.

At the meeting of the Sanitary Board this
afternoon Mr. Edz will bring forward the
question of over-crowding. Subsection 13
of section 13 of the Public Health Bill gives
the Board power to make by-laws for the
prevention of over-crowding in premises,
either in respect of human beings or the
lower animals." Mr. Edz has given notice
of his intention to move that a Committee be
appointed to draw up by-laws on this subject
—with reference principally to human beings
and premises—and that a report on over-
crowding be prepared. This looks rather like
placing the cart before the horse; the drafting
of the by-laws will properly come after the
presentation of the report showing the
nature and extent of the evil that has to be
dealt with. Section 67 of the Ordinance
provides that "Every domestic building or
portion thereof found to be inhabited in ex-
cess of a proportion of one adult to every
three hundred cubic feet of clear internal
space shall be considered to be in an over-
crowded condition and shall be deemed a
nuisance. This section shall apply only to
such districts, or portions of districts, as may
from time to time be designated by an Order
of the Governor in Council." At the time
the Bill was before the Legislative Council
this was one of the most warmly debated
clauses, and the Government was urged, but
without success, to reduce the space require-
ment to 200 or 250 feet. There are a very
large number of houses in Hongkong over-
crowded in excess of a proportion of one adult
(or two children) to every 300 feet of cubic
space. It was stated on behalf of the Gov-
ernment that it was not the intention to
drive the excess from their homes through-
out the Colony at one and the same time, but
to proceed by districts, by which it was hoped
the inconvenience and hardship of the measure
would be minimized. So far the law
has not been set in motion on this subject,
and the matter has now been taken up, not
by the Government, but by an unofficial
member of the Sanitary Board. It will be
interesting to hear what Mr. Edz has to say
in support of his proposal. That over-crowd-
ing is an evil is indisputable, but it is not al-
ways possible to remedy evils by legislative
interference, and sometimes where the at-
tempt is made it is attended by even greater
evils.

In his recent report on the proposed new
drainage system, Mr. Coates, the Sanitary
Surveyor, mentions that in the month of
March of this year the Registrar-General
caused a census to be taken in three districts
of the western part of the city, of the respec-
tive areas of 13, 7.71, and 3.52 acres, in-
cluding streets, with the result that an
average population was found of 1,077,
1,602, and 488 persons to the acre in the
three districts respectively. Mr. Coates
doubts if this density of population is
reached in any city or town of the United
Kingdom or of the Continent of Europe,
but says that in considering the question of
the effect of over-crowding on the health of
the population of Victoria the fact must
not be lost sight of that the city is
not of limited width, occupying only a
narrow strip of ground, with an ex-
tensive harbour on its northern and a con-
siderable open space on its southern side.
To this it may be added that the houses are
more open to the ingress of air than the
houses of European towns, and that during
the summer a large proportion of the popu-
lation sleep in the street. Still, making all
deductions, it must be admitted that over-
crowding exists to an extent involving some
degree of danger to health. Then comes
the question, how is the population in excess
of the present house accommodation of the
colony on the scale of 300 feet to each adult
inhabitant to be provided for. Before
this question can be satisfactorily consid-
ered, it will be necessary to ascertain,
as approximately as the circumstances
admit of, the measure of the excess.
Mr. Coates, in his report referred to above,
speaks of 1,077, 1,602, and 488 persons to
the acre being a density of population not
reached in any city or town of the United

Kingdom or Europe. It is, however, a question
how much more so than the average of the
colony, showing a very considerable pro-
portion of the population of some dis-
tricts would have to be turned out of
their houses. This, of course, is out of the
question, for the people must live some-
where, even if those who are living in places
to submit to the evils of over-crowding.
To apply the provisions of the Ordinance to
one district at a time would only mean, we
fear, the greater overcrowding of the already
overcrowded districts not under proclama-
tion, unless the Government is prepared with
some scheme to attract population to the
Eastern district. The provision of easy
communication would be essential to the
success of any such scheme, but as the laying
of a tramway must necessarily be postponed
until the completion of the Praya extension,
it would seem that the time for action in re-
spect of overcrowding is hardly ripe yet. We
admit the existence of the evil, but question
the ability of the Government or the Sanitary
Board to remedy it under existing condi-
tions. Mr. Edz will, however, render good
service by the action he is taking if he ac-
quires a thoroughly exhaustive report on the
subject, so that it can be studied intelligently.
This will prepare the way for effective
action when the time arrives.

REUTERS informs us to-day that recent events
in France have caused very serious animosity
between parties, especially the Boulangist
and Republican. Very serious animosity
has existed for some time past, and as the
Boulangist party now practically includes
all parties save the one in power the telegram
does not enlighten us much, except as
showing that the animosity has become more
bitter. If the "recent events" had been par-
ticularly observers would have been in a
better position to draw their own con-
clusions. Presumably, however, feeling
must be running very high to have led
to the despatch of such a telegram, and it
may be, though we hope not, that the
storm which has seemed to be brewing for a
long time past is about to break. Boulang-
ism has grown in popularity in spite of the
ridicule heaped upon him and the sorry
figure he cut in his "little affair" with
Floquet in July last, and is a power to
be seriously taken into account. His
idea on the revision question is to
abolish President and Senate, and a tele-
gram of the 17th November informed us
that the Revision Commission had decided
in this sense, a clear victory, apparently, for
the Boulangist party. Although General
Boulangier says two-thirds of the country
would resist a Royalist restoration, the
Royalists are amongst his supporters,
their object being to bring about a crisis,
in which they may be able to part company
with him and make a stroke for power
on their own account. The Paris cor-
respondent of the Times says:—"His sup-
porters do not ask him for any plan, but
merely for victory. It is immater-
ial to them whether he burns coal or
wood in his kitchen, provided the dinner is
served up and they can sit down to it. What
annoys them is to see others seated at
it. The General can do under no illusion
as to the motives of the great majority
of his supporters." This, so far as
we can judge at this distance, accurately
describes the character of the Boulangist
party as at present constituted, and
a very dangerous party it appears to be.
There is at present in France a feverish
desire for change; the existing political ar-
rangement has not given satisfaction, and
a cry has been set up for something new.
General Boulangier has risen into his pre-
sented prominence with this cry, and he carries
with him the malcontents of all shades
of opinion, who sink for the time their own
differences to overthrow the present state of
affairs. What is to be set up in its place
with them a matter to be decided afterwards.

There will be a football practice on the Cause-
way Bay ground, under Association rules, to-
day, play to commence at 4.15 sharp.

We are informed by the Superintendent that
the P. & O. steamer *Venice*, from Bombay, left
Singapore for this port at noon yesterday.

The Agents (Messrs. Adamson, Bell & Co.)
inform us that the G. P. steamer *Admiral* arrived
at Vancouver from Yokohama on the 28th inst.

The Agents (Messrs. Adamson, Bell & Co.)
inform us that the S. S. steamer *Monmouth*,
from New York, left Singapore yester-
day for this port.

We are informed by the Agents (Messrs.
Butterfield and Swire) that the S. S. steamer
Company's steamer *Archives*, from Liverpool,
left Singapore yesterday morning for this port.

An enquiry will be held by Mr. Wodehouse
at the Magistrate's, on Saturday morning, in re-
spect of circumstances connected with the death of
the Chinaman who was killed by a rifle shot at the
Chinese bazaar during the recent competitions
of the Rifle Association.

Mr. Wodehouse heard an application yesterday
for the renewal of the licence of the Hongkong
Hotel, applied for by the manager, Mr. C. M.
The court on the date when the general renewal of
licences was held. The application was granted.

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